

Comparison of Home Ownership for Wilmington Area and State

Variable	1900		1910		1920	
	Wilm.	NC	Wilm.	NC	Wilm.	NC
Owned/Mortgaged Home (African American)	35%	27%	27%	34%	43%	35%
Owned/Mortgaged Home (White)	50%	60%	55%	58%	53%	60%

reversed by 1920, with the black losses of 1910 wiped away and gains jumping to well over the 1900 level. White ownership saw a 2 percent decline that year.

The last two data sets are figures assigned by economists based upon occupations and a calculation derived from occupation and other indicators to provide the social/economic index score (SEI). The occupational scores are developed based on a ranking system that places a higher score, or number, for higher paying, higher status jobs. Therefore, occupations such as attorney, doctor, or teacher have higher scores than those of laborer, maid, or janitor—the higher the score, the higher the pay. Similarly, the SEI scores are reflective of the social and economic status that is tied to an occupation—the higher the score, the more respected that individual (or group) will be in the community.

The average occupational score and SEI for Wilmington-area African Americans in 1900 and 1910 was lower than that of the rest of the state's African American workers, this likely reflects both the white supremacy's campaign promise to hire white workers over black, and the exodus from the city of many skilled workers who sought employment elsewhere. By 1920, the scores had increased to above the state average, probably indicative of the influx of industrial workers and related occupations during the wartime buildup. These figures show that the majority of Wilmington's black workers were employed in low paying jobs with little prestige when above the statewide figure by 1910 and maintained the increase through 1920. Again, the jump could well be due to the strong focus placed on improving the plight of white workers compared to their counterparts in the rest of

Data for Wilmington African Americans compared to North Carolina African Americans

Variable	1880		1900		1910		1920	
	Wilm.	NC	Wilm.	NC	Wilm.	NC	Wilm.	NC
Occupational Score	9.60	8.67	8.06	9.5	8.97	9.99	10.44	9.75
SEI (social/economic index)	7.20	6.66	7.07	8.1	7.77	9.14	9.72	9.43

Data for Wilmington Whites compared to North Carolina Whites

Variable	1880		1900		1910		1920	
	Wilm.	NC	Wilm.	NC	Wilm.	NC	Wilm.	NC
Occupational Score	9.74	8.51	8.53	9.80	12.01	10.89	12.85	11.37
SEI (social/economic index)	11.29	9.28	7.90	11.40	14.79	12.60	16.20	13.92